

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON **TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2016** IN EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr S Miller
Cllr A McNeil
Cllr K Neville
Cllr P Todd (Ex-Officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs J Routley (Parish Clerk).

It was noted that the meeting due to take place on 20th September did not occur as the Council was not quorate.

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
(i) There were no declarations of interest
(ii) There were no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
(iii) There was no need to grant any requests for dispensation.

33 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
(i) The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on **TUESDAY 19th JULY 2016** had previously been circulated to all Councillors.
(ii) No errors were reported.

It was **resolved** that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

SM

(iii) Matters arising from previous Minutes
None.

34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

35 DRAFT BUDGET FOR OPEN SPACES,
(i) The committee confirmed a draft budget for the Open Spaces Committee. (See Appendix B). It was noted that the Council needs to recognise that if anything else beyond this needs doing then other projects may need to be abandoned or deferred.
(ii)

RESOLVED

- To finalise and recommend the budget to Full Council.

OSC

36 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME,
(i) The committee discussed a list of possible projects on which the £1,000 could be spent. (See Appendix B). Yateley Town Council had confirmed that they would not be able to do allotment clearance under the scheme.

(ii)

RESOLVED

- To ask Yateley Town Council how much each project might cost.

Clerk

37 PROTECTION OF VILLAGE GREEN AREA FROM VEHICLES AND OCCUPATION
(i) The committee agreed that the Village Green would best be protected by a bund but that this would have to be in next year's budget.
(ii) The Council had already approved the cost for fencing at Up Green but was waiting on quote for dragon's teeth which would be more appropriate and allow access.

(iii)

RESOLVED

- To obtain a quote for dragon's teeth and as long as it was under the pre-approved £600 to proceed with their installation.
- To write to the owners of the nearby properties informing them that dragon's teeth are to be installed imminently in order to protect the green.

SM

Clerk

38 GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING,

(i) Tesco Bags of Help The Chair reported that the new dates for the voting would be 31st October – 9th November. EPC would encourage all residents to visit their local Tesco store and vote. This will enable new play equipment to be purchased.

(ii) Playground Equipment The fundraising for new play equipment for Centre Green has gone well the final figures are not yet known. A grant from HCC towards this has also recently been received.

(iii) Playground Equipment The Clerk has sent thank you letters to individuals and businesses who have contributed towards the new playground equipment and a general message of thanks has been included in the parish magazine. (See Appendix C – Sandra report)

39 LITTERPICKER'S REPORT

(i) The Clerk is to circulate the Litterpicker's report for **July, August, September and October 2016** to all Councillors. There was concern that not all tasks were being completed.

RESOLVED

- Cllr A McNeil is to speak with the Litterpicker to ascertain any issues.

AM

40 TREES, HEDGES, VERGES AND DITCHES

(i) Drain The drain from Marsh Lane which feeds the pond may be blocked.

RESOLVED

- Cllr A McNeil is to speak with resident Chris Smith about this issue.

AM

(ii) There were no reported issues on EPC land.

Trees The Chair asked who owned the trees around the Village Hall. Cllr P Todd confirmed that the Village Hall would be the land owner.

(iii) Marsh Lane It was noted that the flow of water from Marsh Lane to the pond follows the east side of Marsh Lane and then the pipe goes under the road and comes out by Footpath 22 by the Frog and Wicket Public House and then dog legs off to the pond.

RESOLVED

- Cllr A McNeil is to look into whether this is blocked.

AM

Ditches in general

RESOLVED

- Cllr A McNeil is to write an article for the Parish Magazine about residents responsibility for ditches.

AM

41 FLY-TIPPING

(i) Hall's Way The Clerk had reported this fly tipping but had not yet heard back from HDC as to whether this is on land they will clear.

Lafarge There has been more fly tipping by another of the entrances to the Lafarge site.

42 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(i) Footpath by Fox House It was noted that the footpath by Fox House was still difficult to access. It was noted that this was to be improved by the nearby residents once the Highway Rights had been granted which may not have yet happened.

Footpaths in general It was noted that it was difficult to be aware of all the issues on footpaths and local walking groups may be able to assist in this.

RESOLVED

- The Chair is to contact The Ramblers, U3A, Walking for Health to ask them to make EPC aware of any issues.

SM

Small Grants It was noted that the small grants funding is now open which could be used towards improving access.

43 REPAIRS AND REFURBISHMENTS OF ALL PLAYAREAS,

- (i) There are no further repairs at present.
- (ii) No action was required.

44 PLANNING APPLICATIONS,

(i) **RESOLVED**

- The Council noted receipt of the following planning applications but, with the exception of (c), chose to make no comment on them.

(a) 16/02631/PRIOR Telecommunications Site SW Sir Richards Ride

Application for prior notification for the replacement of existing 12m high pole with proposed 12m high pole, installation of 1 no. proposed equipment cabinet, plus ancillary apparatus

(b) 16/02632/HOU Plum Hollow Chequers Lane

Two storey front extension

(c) 16/00721/LBC

Bramshill House (10 applications)

Conversion of Bramshill House, the Stable Block and the existing Nuffield Hall, to provide a total of 25 residential units and associated parking. Use of the principal rooms of Bramshill House as a publicly accessible museum space. Demolition of curtilage listed buildings and maintenance and restoration works to Bramshill House and Gardens. The provision of a new 13.9ha SANG. at Bramshill House ,

(ii) 16/00721/LBC

Bramshill House (10 applications)

Whilst EPC had not just responded formally via HDC's website, it had confirmed its support of Bramshill's objection letter by PDA Paul Dickinson and Associates regarding the applications for Bramshill House. Eversley Parish Council confirmed that it gives its full support to these objections and is happy for its name to be included in the submission.

Eversley Parish Council would also like to make comment on how these applications will impact Eversley in particular. The concerns the Council has are as follows:

- Additional traffic – particularly in light of the Arborfield development.
- Road capacity – Bramshill Road and the Tally Ho junction are at capacity which will be exacerbated further by the Arborfield development.
- Schooling – the catchment school, Charles Kingsley School, is at capacity, is a listed building and has no scope to expand.
- Burial ground capacity – Eversley Burial ground currently serves Eversley and Bramshill and is at near capacity.
- Affordable Housing on site would be unsuitable due to the lack of public transport and therefore it would make more sense to make a contribution to this off site.
- SANG provision does not fully mitigate as it would prove difficult for residents offsite to use.

EPC would also like to reinforce that this is a significant site (one of the best examples in the country of a Jacobean palace, having all been built in the Jacobean era). Such a significant change to a historic building merits its consideration at a national level rather than as a district planning matter.

RESOLVED

- Cllr P Todd is to prepare a draft of a formal response to HDC.

PT/15.11.16

(iii) Other Planning Matters

Marsh Lane It was noted that EPC may wish to consider a contingency in its budget should it need to fight an appeal/application.

Rural Broadband for Eversley It had been noted that Eversley is to receive high-speed broadband by 2017 but no details had been given.

RESOLVED

- The Clerk is to ask BT Openreach about the details of where exactly the new hubs will be located and a timetable for the provision. **Clerk**

45 ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES ITEMS OF INFORMATION

(i) The Clerk had nothing to report.

(ii) Red Car Councillors noted that the abandoned red car by the roundabout by Warbrook House is still there. Cllr A McNeil will investigate.

AM

ESA Fireworks It was noted that the ESA Fireworks will take place on 29th October and a litterpick will take place the day after.

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

The next Open Spaces meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at 7.30pm

APPENDIX A

Ongoing Actions List

<u>Public Rights of Way Evidence Forms regarding Bramshill Forest</u> Cllr P Todd is still to review the paperwork and write a cover letter for the form which clearly explains the claim.	PT
<u>War Memorial Cross in Churchyard</u> Cllr K Neville offered to voluntarily make the repairs if he could be compensated for materials. He is to look into what would be required.	
<u>Playgrounds</u> Cllr S Miller has taken pictures of all the play areas and the Clerk is to put these on the website.	Clerk
The Clerk is still to put the Rights of Way Map on the website and the notice board.	Clerk
<u>19 Kingsley Road</u> Cllr P Todd has spoken to the Ordinary Water Course Consenting Department (HCC) and this matter is now being looked into. Cllr P Todd is to chase Hampshire Estates on this matter.	PT
<u>Bluebell Wood</u> Cllr K Neville has taken photos in order to mark the routes on the map and will circulate to this committee.	KN
Cllr P Todd will talk to CEMEX regarding this at their next meeting.	PT
<u>Bus Stop by Kingsley Road</u> Councillors reported that the roof of the bus shelter has been damaged. Cllr K Neville offered to make the repairs required.	KN
<u>Flooding on Coopers Hill</u> The Chairman acknowledged that part of the ditch under the walk way at Up Green still needed to be cleared.	SD
Cllr C Young reported that Highways had stated that they would look at the culvert in the road and sweep Coopers Hill but have not yet done so. Cllr C Young had contacted HCC and pointed out that the culvert remained a problem.	CY
<u>Footpath 24</u> The Chairman had met the new owner. The Chairman felt it would be sensible to work with the landowner and the agricultural department at CEMEX to see if the levels could be restored before putting in a floating footpath. The Chairman is trying to arrange a meeting with the landowner and HCC Rights of Way. The Chairman and not received a response from CEMEX. It was felt that if the new owners cleared the ditches this would help towards to footpath.	SD
<u>Garden Plots</u> . To install the padlock on the gate.	SD/SM
<u>Up Green Restoration Project</u> The clearance work had highlighted where the footpath was and it was suggested that a gravel path could be laid all the way through. The SGS grant scheme is again open for applications.	SD
<u>Up Green Village Green</u> Since this matter now seems to be progressing through solicitors it was felt that it was not necessary to pursue protection options at this time. It was also noted that tenants are now respecting the Green and parking on the road.	
At the recent Full Council meeting it had decided there would need to be a long term management plan for this area. The Open Spaces Committee agreed to take on this task in collaboration with local residents.	OSC
<u>Hollybush Lane</u> It was noted that there are overhanging brambles along this lane. The Clerk is to write to the landowners and tenants.	Clerk
<u>Grants</u> The Chairman is to provide new councillor, Cllr M Hitchman with maps of all EPC owned land.	SD
<u>Replacement Bench</u> Full Council had approved the remainder of the cost for the replacement bench. The Clerk is to order this and it is to be sited by the pond at Cross Green.	Clerk
<u>Adverse weather</u>	
Cllr C Young will republish the Emergency Procedures.	CY
<u>Bluebell Wood</u> It was noted that the 'name tree' in the woods may now be a safety hazard.	
<u>Hollybush Lane</u> There is a tree down on the north side.	SD
<u>Grounds Maintenance Contract</u> This contract is to be reviewed again in May 2015.	
<u>Scrutiny flooding meeting</u> EPC has been informed that this meeting due to take place on 19 th January 2015 has been cancelled. The Clerk has asked to be informed of the rescheduled date.	

Marsh Lane Councillors need to assess the ditches by the pylons and the drains are now buried.

Sherlock Lea The rubbish has still not been cleared. Thames Valley Housing Association has been out to assess but were unable to locate the rubbish. Cllr S Miller has provided photographs which the Clerk has sent. Thames Valley Housing Association is to be chased as to when they will take action.

Clerk

Village of the Year competition Cllr S Miller agreed to look into this competition.

Community Litterpick Councillors discussed the possibility of holding this in the summer. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

SM

Chequers Green There had been a complaint from a resident about the pile of green waste at Chequers Green. This was as a result of the Payback Team's clearance and would be burned or cleared as a matter of urgency.

SD

Play Area Inspection Report It was suggested that goal posts may be donated by ESA and that a basket ball hoop may be sponsored by The Chequers Public House. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

SM

Trees, Hedges, Verges and ditches It was noted that the New Council may wish to consider a tree survey on EPC owned land and will investigate costs.

SD

Longwater Lane The Clerk has to written to the land owner with the standard HCC hedge clearing letter.

Clerk

Firgrove Road There is an Alder tree on Firgrove Road that is rotten and could fall across the road. The Chairman is to log a ticket with HCC about this dangerous tree.

SD

Open Space Areas Consultation Cllr D Bradley had responded to this consultation. The Consultants had sent back a map to verify the different areas. It was noted that there were quite a few errors on their map which Cllr P Todd offered to address and respond back.

PT

Chequers Green Play Area It was reported that someone had been exercising their horse in the Chequers Green Play area and using some of the trim trail as jumps. This had caused much disruption with children and dogs that were also using the park. It was noted that horses should not be in there at all and that signage might be required. Councillors are to speak to the rider concerned.

SD

Hollybush Lane It was noted that the bushes are very overgrown. The Chairman is to speak with the tenant's agents to see what can be done.

SD

Footpath 15 It was noted that there should be a stile on this footpath but instead walkers have to climb over a fence. Cllr K Neville offered to investigate.

KN

Footpath 17 It was noticed that the hedges from 2 properties are overhanging this footpath by Charles Kingsley's School. Cllr S Miller is to investigate.

SM

**APPENDIX B
Draft Budget**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 YTD*	<i>*up to 4.10.16 - 5 months left</i>	Draft Budget 2017-18
Repairs/Maint	3,229.00	2,705.00	4,272	13,133		11,000.00
Grounds Maint	7,435.00	7,460.00	7,755	4,337		8,755.00
Tree work	1,755.00	0.00	480	600		1,000.00
Litter Picker	2,767.00	3,039.00	2,751	1,762		5,000.00
Waste Management	678.00	760.00	786	346		800.00
Annual Play Inspection	236.00	236.00	236	0		236.00
EPC Projects	4,239.00	2,623.00	11,729	552		1,300.00
TOTAL	20,339.00	16,823.00	28,008	20,730		28,091.00

Notes

Precept (to cover all Council expenditure) 30,000 37,500 44700

2015-16 Grants for picnic benches and bin - under EPC projects

APPENDIX C

Playground Equipment Report

Open Spaces Update

It has been a busy summer of fundraising events and I would just like to say “What a great community we live in”. This summer showed a real feel for our community spirit here in Eversley with all the support of local businesses and residents coming together for fundraising events to raise money to buy new equipment for Centre Green. The good news is you all did it! We made our fundraising target and we have now installed the new swing trail at Centre Green. I would like to thank everybody who got involved by giving their time, money, and donations of prizes for auctions, jumble and toys for us to sell. I did manage to sneak many of Jacobs’s toys out under cover of night for the toy sale stall, but he still managed to buy them all back and much more ☺

This is a fantastic achievement for all involved and I would like to thank everybody for their hard work, dedication & determination. It’s times like this that make me really proud to be part of such a great community. Well done Eversley !!

Sandra Miller Eversley Parish Council Open Spaces

Tesco Bags of Help

After a small hiccup with the bags of help funding competition last month (as our local Yateley store was closed for refurbishment on the first set of dates voting was due to start) the new dates were announced to **be 31st October until the 9th November.**

Voting booths will also be in the Meadows Tesco and Tesco express in Fleet. We will be going against two other projects, which we will not find out who they are until the first day of voting. Please spare the time to pop in to one of our local Tesco Stores and vote for Eversley Parish Councils project “ Eversley Outdoors” First prize is £12,000, second prize £10,000 and third prize £8,000. With the money we receive we will be able to add more equipment to Centre Green to make it an open space the whole community can enjoy for years to come.

Damage to open spaces equipment

Unfortunately, over the summer months much of our equipment in Eversley has been vandalised. Two of the new benches at the Pond area were destroyed. Chequers Green has had damage to the basketball courts, swings and the new benches have been broken. The amount of damage totals nearly £2,000. It is sad that a small minority spoil it for others. All of the benches were lottery funded as part of the Eversley Outdoors Project and we work hard to secure funding for better facilities for residents to enjoy.

If you see anyone causing damage to any of the equipment around Eversley please report it immediately to 101 with a full description of the offenders then the police can get an idea of the times that the damage is being caused and be able to take the action that is needed.